GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2233
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2007
VISIT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER TO IRAN
Dhanaraju Dr. K.;Mehta Shri Alok Kumar;Singh Shri Mohan;Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has visited Iran recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussion held and the outcome thereof ;

(c) whether any agreement was signed on the occasion;

(d) whether the Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline project was also discussed; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes. External Affairs Minister visited Iran on 6-7 February 2007.

(b) Discussions were held on bilateral and regional issues. India emphasised the importance it attached to relations with Iran. The importance of Iran to India as a transit point to access Afghanistan and Central Asia was mentioned. On Iran`s nuclear issue, India stated that the UN Security Council Resolution 1737 underscored the need for more active and transparent cooperation with the IAEA for resolution of outstanding issues. India emphasised that all possible efforts should be made to address the issue by peaceful means through dialogue and negotiations with all sides showing flexibility and restraint. Discussions were also held on the Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline Project, details of which are covered in parts (d) and (e) below.

(c) No.

(d) Yes.

(e) India referred to the last trilateral meeting of Secretaries held in Tehran in January 2007, where it had reaffirmed its commitment to the project and had welcomed the agreement on the price of gas between Iran and Pakistan. India was considering the formula to which additional burden would result on account of transportation tariff and transit fee through Pakistan territory.